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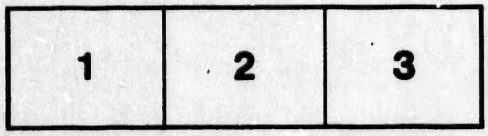

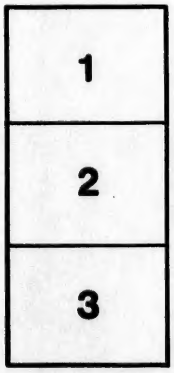

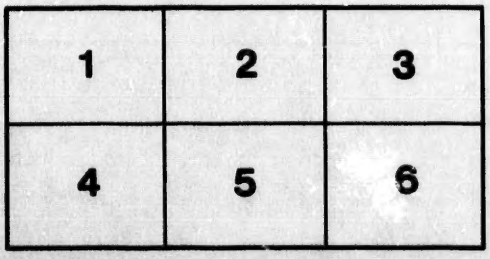

REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL,

TO THE MEMBERS,

AT

The Annual General Meeting,

6th November, 1854,

WITH PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING, AND LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE MECHANICS' HALL.

MECHANICS INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL - INCORPORATED 1845 -

BIBLIOTHEQUE S.M.E QUEBEC

MONTREAL:

Printed by Owler & Stevenson, at the Sun Job Printing Establishment, 42 St. François Xavier Street.

1855.

1855
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PROCEEDINGS

AT

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Mechanics' Institute of Montreal.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, was held in the Rooms of the Institute on Monday evening, the 6th Nov. 1854.

The President, Mr. Henry Bulmer, having taken the chair, and called the meeting to order, the Secretary, Mr. Alexander A. Stevenson, read the minutes of last Annual Meeting, which were confirmed.

The Secretary then read the Report.

It was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Ramsay—

"That the Report be received and adopted," which was carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Milln, and carried unanimously—

"That it be an instruction to the General Committee to put themselves in correspondence with the Executive Committee appointed for the Paris Exhibition, with the view to the holding an Exhibition about the period of the usual Annual Festival, at which selections might be made by the Commissioners."

Moved by Mr. Milln, seconded by Mr. Perry, and carried unanimously—

"That in future the Annual Report be placed in

the most convenient place in the Reading Room, at least three days previous to the Annual Meeting, for examination of the Members."

Moved by Mr. Milln, seconded by Mr. Irwin, and carried unanimously—

"That a special vote of thanks be given to the General Committee for the past year, for taking the initiatory steps to establish a Free Library of Reference in the City of Montreal."

Messrs. Garth, Bernard and Kennedy having been appointed scrutineers, the Meeting then proceeded to the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year, according to the provisions of the act of incorporation, when the following gentlemen were declared duly elected, viz.:—

President.
HENRY BULMER.

Vice-Presidents.

1. A. BERTRAM.
2. D. BROWN.
3. W. HUTCHISON.
4. W. P. BARTLEY.

Corresponding Secretary.
A. MURRAY.

Recording Secretary.
ALEX. A. STEVENSON.

Treasurer.
HENRY LYMAN.

Librarian and Cabinet Keeper.
T. D. REED.

Members of General Committee.

W. Milln.
H. Munro.
W. Kennedy.
J. Lambert.
W. Spiers.
J. Fletcher.
J. Spence.
R. Mitchell.
Dr. A. Bernard.
Chas. Garth.
James Hopkins
C. P. Ladd.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL,

PRESENTED ON THE 6TH NOVEMBER, 1854.

The period for which your Committee were elected being about to terminate, they have now to lay before you the usual Annual Statement of the progress of the Institute during the past year, its condition at the present time, and its prospects for the future. In doing so, they would refer in the first place to the list of Membership.

The number of Members at the date of last Annual Report was, ...	502	
Of whom have ceased to be Members during the year, ...	82	
		420
Number of Ordinary Members admitted during the year, .		259
The number of Life Members elected during the year .	116	
Of whom were Members previously,	57	
		59
Total number of Members enrolled at this date, ...		738

These may be classified as follows:—

Honorary	Members, . .	15
Corresponding	do., . .	7
Life	do., . .	140
Ordinary	do., . .	576
		738

Shewing an increase during the year of 236, Life Members included. The increase of Ordinary Members may, in a great measure, be attributed to the adoption of the Free Class system during the past winter, a measure which induced a large number of apprentices and others to connect themselves with the Institute. Your Committee would here point out to the Members in general, the importance of individual exertion for increasing the List of Membership. A very slight effort on the part of individual Members would soon swell the list to double its present number. The Committee are confident that if the aims and objects of the Institute were more fully known and understood, it would be appreciated and supported in a corresponding degree, by that large and important class of the community —the working Mechanics—whose interests it is more especially designed to promote.

THE LIBRARY.

The Library has received a large measure of attention from the Sub-Committee, to whose charge it was committed. The additions made to it during the year amount to 138 volumes, 84 of which were by purchase, and 54 donations. In consequence of the bad condition in which many of the works were found, a considerable number had to be re-

bound,—in all, 135 volumes have passed through the binder's hands. The number of books issued during the previous year was 4000; the issues for the year just closed were 4643. The Committee would take this opportunity to remind Members that valuable additions might be made to the Library in the shape of donations of works, perhaps of little value to the present owners, but which would be of much value and utility if placed in a public Library.

Your Committee have also to report that, during last session of Provincial Parliament, they forwarded to the three branches of the Legislature a Petition on behalf of the Institute, setting forth the objects of the Institute and number of its Members, the progress of the new Hall, and the opportunities which will be afforded by its completion to increase the sphere of usefulness of the Institute; also, that it would be most desirable to possess an extensive Library of Literature and Science, to be a Library of reference, free to all, and a Model-Room in which models might be collected and studied, free of expense; that the funds at the disposal of the Institute would not allow them to accomplish these useful purposes, which in their effect could not be considered of a merely local nature; and praying an appropriation from the public revenue for these purposes exclusively. This Petition was kindly taken charge of by the Hon. John Young, M.P.P., one of the City Members; was laid before the House of Assembly, and printed on motion of Mr. Young. No action, however, was taken in the matter, up to the time of the adjournment of the House. It is

hoped that it may receive favorable attention when the session is resumed in February next.

THE READING ROOM.

The READING ROOM has, as usual, been well attended throughout the year. The following is a list of the Newspapers and Periodicals to be found on the tables:—

City Papers.—Herald, Gazette, Pilot, Transcript, Advertiser, Sun, Argus, Minerve, Pays, Witness, True Witness.

Canadian Papers.—Toronto Globe, Toronto Examiner, Kingston Chronicle, Hamilton Spectator, St. John's News, Quebec Chronicle, Canada Gazette.

United States.—Boston Atlas, New York Albion, Tribune and Herald, Philadelphia Courier.

Periodicals.—The Medical Chronicle, North British Review, Edinburgh Review, Blackwood's Magazine, Hunt's Magazine, London Quarterly, Harper's Magazine, Appleton's Mechanic, Civil Engineer, Practical Mechanic, Art Journal, Greenough's Polytechnic Journal of Science and Art.

English Papers, &c.—Wilmer and Smith's European Times, London Dispatch, do. Illustrated News, Builder, Punch, Dublin Nation, and Glasgow Saturday Post.

DONATIONS.—The Committee gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following donations:

From John Leeming, Esq., 12 volumes.
" A. Murray, Esq., 13 do.
" Mr. F. Gallagher, 1 do.
" T. C. Keefer, Esq., a copy of Maury's Wind and Current Chart.

From the Grand Trunk R. R. Co., a Model of a Bridge.

From Messrs. G. P. Putnam and Co., of New York, 14 vols.

From John Armour, Esq., 18 vols.

„ C. P. Ladd, Esq., 6 do.

„ Robert Stephenson, Esq., Civil Engineer, of London, England, a splendid volume of Engravings, and two volumes letter-press, descriptive of the construction of the Britannia and Conway Tabular Bridges.

LECTURES AND CLASSES.

A short Course of Lectures was delivered during the past winter, the attendance at which was greater than on any former year. The following is the order of delivery, viz.:

Introductory Lecture by the Rev. W. Bond, on Dec. 13, 1853, on "The Pleasure and Profit of Science."

Followed by D. C. McCallum, Esq., M.D., on "The new Theory of the relations of Forces."

T. C. Keefer, Esq., on "The Ottawa."

Rev. John Cordner, on "The social Position and Rights of Women."

Rev. A. Lillie, D.D., on "Robert Burns."

A. N. Rennie, Esq., on "Poetry—its relation to History."

W. Milln, Esq., on "The Steam Engine."

Rev. W. Taylor, D.D., on "Spirit Rappings."

W. Milln, Esq., (2nd lecture) on "The Causes and Prevention of Steam Boiler Explosion."

B. Chamberlin, Esq.,—"Our Country, and our Duty to it."

The Concluding Lecture was delivered on the 14th March, 1854, by Rev. D. Inglis; subject—"The True Patriot."

The Sub-Committee on Classes having observed that during former years the Classes were attended by but a very small number of the Members, perhaps not averaging more than from 12 to 18, resolved to abolish the small charge usually made for admission, and to afford instruction in the Classes free to all Members of the Institute. The result was, that immediately on the announcement of this proceeding, the applications for admission numbered upwards of 100, being as many as the limited accommodation would admit of. Instruction in Mechanical, Architectural, and Ornamental Drawing, was given by W. Milln, D. J. Macfarlane, John Kay, and James Duncan, Esqs. Messrs. Duncan, Millnand Macfarlane, having refused to accept any compensation for their services, were presented with Tickets of Life Membership.

Your Committee hope that the Free Class system, so auspiciously commenced, will be still further extended by their successors, affording instruction in other branches of knowledge, requisite for the proper education of the youth of our working-classes.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The returns from last season's Festival exceeded those of any former year by about £50, amounting in net proceeds to £154 8s. 8d. The number in attendance was upwards of 1500; and the conduct and management, your Committee have been gratified to learn, gave universal satisfaction.

From the proceeds of the Festival, the Committee

appropriated the sum of £100 towards the Building Fund of the Institute.

FINANCE.

The Treasurer's Statement, which now lies on the table, exhibits a deficiency in the current expense account of £84 2s. 1d., which is to be accounted for in consequence of not having received the annual grant for the year 1854 of £50 from the Provincial Exchequer, and from the fact, that a considerable number of Members had constituted themselves *Life Members*, by contributions to the "Building Fund," of £12 10s and upwards. If these Members would generously consider the exigency of the case, and the desirableness of closing each year's transactions without incurring debt, and would severally pay their subscriptions for the current year 1854, the financial year of the Institute would close without debt. The sum of £30 is also due by the Mercantile Library Association, as an indemnity for the non-fulfilment of an arrangement entered into with this Institute, for the joint occupancy of the rooms at present leased by the Institute.

THE NEW MECHANICS' HALL.

The erection of this structure has occupied a large share of the attention of the Committee during the year. Various adverse circumstances have arisen to retard the completion of the building, which will be found fully explained in the following Report of the Building Committee, embodied with this, in order that Members may be fully acquainted with the building operations, and the difficulties with which the Committee have had to contend.

REPORT OF BUILDING COMMITTEE.

At the period of the last Annual Report, your Sub-committee reported that having been authorised to that effect, a most desirable site had been purchased, and that contracts had been made with responsible and competent persons, for the different descriptions of work required. The foundation of the Hall was commenced in the month of October last, but not completed, owing to the early setting in of wintry weather. Building operations were resumed in the month of April, and the foundation stone was laid with most imposing Masonic ceremonies on the 11th of May. Subsequently the work progressed, but not with the rapidity desired by your Sub-committee, in consequence as it is believed, of the pressure of other engagements upon the contractors for Masonry, and other causes, among which may be mentioned the scarcity of workmen, the extreme heat of the weather, and the ravages of a fearful pestilence.

As it may not be unknown to many, that the original plan of the building has been slightly modified, it may be in place to explain that it was primarily intended to cover the building with a flat roof, to be covered with Warren's patent roofing, but the offer of a donation of all the slate requisite by Messrs. Badgley & Abbott gave rise to a change in the plan of the roof, and it was ultimately agreed to adopt a hipped truss roof, having a flat portion of about one third, and the remainder constructed on an angle suitable for the use of slate.

By making this arrangement, it was found practicable to raise the ceiling of the Lecture Room from

18 to 22 feet, making it in many respects a more desirable Hall for public occasions, without materially adding to the cost of construction.

It was supposed likewise that the attic story might be made to subserve a more useful purpose, as for example a *Model Room*, or for something of a kindred character; your Sub-committee believe, that on the whole the change was not, by any means, detrimental either to the usefulness or appearance of the structure.

Owing to causes, however beyond the control of your Sub-committee, the slates offered by Messrs. Badgley and Abbott, the former proprietors of the Kingsey quarries could not be obtained at the time required, and Messrs. Reed and Raynor were employed to furnish the material, and complete the work. The flat portion of the roof was covered in a most satisfactory manner, by Messrs. C. M. Warren & Co., with their Patent Roofing materials.

To recur to the execution of the work, your Sub-committee regret extremely to say, that before the stone walls were raised to the height proposed, it was discovered that they were not perpendicular to their bases, that in St. Peter Street especially was found upon examination to be considerably off the plumb.

Under these circumstances, your Sub-committee conceived that only one course of procedure was open to them, viz: to take the regular legal proceeding in such cases, and they accordingly protested against the contractors, Messrs. Mavor and McDonald, on account of defective materials and work-

manship, holding them responsible for all losses and damages that might ensue.

This action of the Building Committee led to an arbitration by expertes mutually chosen, viz: John Redpath, Esq., on the part of this Institute. J. H. Springle, Esq., Architect, on the part of the contractors, and T. C. Keefer, Esq., C. E. as umpire. The result of this reference was an award of £500 damages against the contractors above mentioned, for reasons specified in their able report.

The Building Committee feel that the thanks of the Institute are due to the gentlemen who acted so promptly and generously in this matter; performing an onerous task with much ability and without fee or reward, and also to Messrs. McKay & Austin, Advocates, and J. J. Gibb, Esq., Notary Public, who added to the favours previously bestowed, by giving their professional assistance to your Committee gratuitously.

The Building Committee have decided that it will be requisite to take down and rebuild the wall fronting on St. Peter Street, and are of opinion that with other alterations contemplated, the building will be made secure, and will fully meet the expectations of the public. To obviate the loss of time, the Building Committee are making the necessary arrangements for the reconstruction of the wall without delay, and in the most economical manner.

The Building Committee have every reason to be satisfied with the materials and work furnished by the contractors for Brick and Joiner work.

The roof of the new Hall having been complet-

ed under the direction of the Building Committee, the reconstruction of wall referred to is the only impediment to the early finishing of the new Hall. Applications have been received for the lease of the Shops, but no engagement was entered into, in consequence of the difficulties occasioned by the contractors for Masonry.

There is every reason to believe, however, that when completed no difficulty will be experienced in leasing the Shops at a very fair rate.

FINANCES—BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Since the period of last Annual Meeting, an additional sum of £241 3s. 3d, has been subscribed to this fund, and the amount of £964 6s. 6d. has been collected by the Superintendent, and one hundred pounds from the surplus of the last Annual Festival was appropriated to this fund, by order of the General Committee.

The subscriptions were called for by public advertisement in three instalments; the whole is now due, and the sum of £591 14s. remains yet to be collected. It is to be hoped that every exertion will be made by every Member of the Institute to increase the subscriptions to this fund.

The Building Committee have issued a circular which is now in process of distribution among the journeymen mechanics in the several establishments and workshops of the City, in the hope that that enterprising and increasingly intelligent class will aid materially in completing the structure which is intended to promote their own interests and increase their usefulness.

With the view to meet in part the expense

of furnishing the new Hall, the Committee have had under discussion the expediency of holding a Bazaar upon the occasion of opening the new Hall, when needlework and articles of every description of workmanship, the contributions of the Members and friends of the Institute, might be exposed for sale, and from which, with suitable and united exertion, a considerable sum, it is thought, might be raised.

The Account Current of this fund will be found under its appropriate head.

In conclusion your Committee can assure the Members of the Institute, that while its interests have been committed to them, they have done their utmost to promote them. It has been a busy year, throughout, and when the distressing epidemic that for so long a time this year afflicted our City, as well as several other difficulties with which the Committee had to contend, are considered, it is hoped that the Members will do them the justice of approving of their efforts, and by cordial co-operation in the objects of the Institute, assist and encourage future committees in their exertions to render the Mechanics' Institute, a lasting benefit to its Members and a credit to the City.

All of which is respectfully submitted;

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Mechanics' Institute of Montreal in Account with HENRY LYMAN, *Treasurer.*

Dr.

1854.			
—To cash paid contingent expenses, including rent of rooms, gas, assessment, printing, advertising, postage, stationery, &c., &c.,	£210	0	8
To cash paid for Books for Library	31	0	10
To cash paid for Periodicals for Reading Room,	38	16	11
To cash paid for salary Superintendant,	83	5	0
	£363	3	5
To Balance due to Treasurer,	£84	2	1

Cr.

1853.			
Nov. 9.—By Cash from J. A. B. McGill, late Treasurer,	£	3	2 5
By Cash from Members' Subscriptions, rent of rooms, &c., &c.,	220	5	3
By Balance proceeds of Festival 1854,	55	3	8
Balance,	84	2	1
	£363	3	5

We, the undersigned Auditors, having examined the Account Current of the Treasurer, and compared the same with the Receipts of Income and Vouchers of Expenditure, find the same to be perfectly correct.

DAVID BROWN,
ALEX. BERTRAM, } Auditors.
C. P. LADD,

Montreal, Nov. 6, 1854.

E. & O. E.,
Montreal, Nov. 6, 1854.

HENRY LYMAN, Treas.,
Mechanics' Institute.

Mechanics' Institute Building Fund in Account with HENRY LYMAN, *Treasurer.*

Mechanics' Institute Building Fund in Account with HENRY LYMAN, *Treasurer.*

From November, 1853, to November, 1854.

Dr.				*Cr.*			
1853.				1853.			
To Cash paid Contractors for New Hall,	£2507	10	7	Nov. 8—By Balance in Bank,	£1725	0	2
To paid Interest,	234	2	5	By Cash from Corporation for Ground in St Peter Street,	115	0	0
To paid Contingencies, including Insurance, Printing, Commission on Collections, &c. &c.	57	5	4	By Collections per Superintendent,	964	6	6
Balance,	321	1	1	By appropriation of proceeds of Festival,	100	0	0
				By Interest from Montreal Bank,	51	13	0
				By donation, acting-mayor J. Papin, Esq.	5	0	0
				By Robert Campbell, for commutation of Light,	150	0	0
				By donation, Nnnns' Band, services at Procession,	7	10	0
				By donation C. McCormick, for services,	0	10	0
				By donation D. & W. Smith,	0	19	9
	£3119	19	5		£3119	19	5
				1854.			
				Nov. 6—By Cash Balance,	£321	1	1

We. the undersigned Auditors, having examined the Account Current, and compared the same with vouchers, find it perfectly correct.

DAVID BROWN,
ALEX. BERTRAM, } Auditors.
C. P. LADD,

Montreal, Nov. 6, 1854.

E. & O. E.

Montreal, Nov. 8, 1854.

HENRY LYMAN,
Treasurer.

LIST

A. I
J. H
Will
Will
John
J. G
Thor
J. W
H. F
Colu
Edw
Robe
John
Robe
Thor
Geor
J. H.
Neil
Jame
Hens
Jame
R. &
Henr
L. B
W. I
Judg
John

A C
comple

LIST OF ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIBERS TO THE BUILDING FUND SINCE THE DATE OF THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT.

	£	s.	d.
A. L.,	25	0	0
J. H. Joseph,	25	0	0
William Cowan,	12	10	0
William P. Carter,	12	10	0
John Henderson,	12	10	0
J. G. Mackenzie,	12	10	0
Thomas Peck,	12	10	0
J. Warren Coleman,	12	10	0
H. Parker,	12	10	0
Columbus Smith,	12	10	0
Edward Evans,	12	10	0
Robert Benn,	12	10	0
John Cordner,	12	10	0
Robert Cross,	12	10	0
Thomas B. Wragg,	2	10	0
George D. Watson,	2	10	0
J. H. Esdaile,	5	0	0
Neil McIntosh,	5	0	0
James A. Walker,	2	10	0
Henry Brown,	2	10	0
James Scott,	2	10	0
R. & A. Miller,	5	3	3
Henry Ennis,	1	5	0
L. Bleau,	1	0	0
W. Nelson,	5	0	0
Judge Aylwin,	5	0	0
John Penner,	1	5	0

A Complete list of the Subscribers will be published after the completion of the Building.